



## Coordinating research in Europe

by Édith Cresson, Member of the European Commission

How can you improve the coordination of European research policies? The task is a complicated one, given the simultaneous existence of national policies, to which the Member States are quite rightly attached, and a Community policy. But it is a very necessary one.

### Coordination: a requirement

Europe has always excelled in science, but it has often found it difficult to translate its assets into technological and economic achievements. At this level it compares poorly not only with Japan but also the United States, which has recovered in recent years the dynamism it had lost temporarily. And competition from the young nations of Asia is already in sight.

The situation is all the more preoccupying given the marked tendency on the part of European governments, noticeable for several years now, to reduce the sums devoted to research.

In the face of this situation, it is essential to coordinate research policies, in order to prevent resources from being spread too thinly, reduce the duplication of effort and set priorities jointly. At the same time it is necessary to see to it that this assertion is not interpreted as an underhand demonstration of the Commission's determination to preside over the entire gamut of official European research policies. Such concerns are baseless, and there is no reason to encourage them.

The operational units — the task forces that Martin Bangemann, Neil Kinnock and I have set up within the Commission to deal with subjects of particular importance for the European economy — can help promote an interdisciplinary and coordinated approach. They will make it possible to develop the necessary dialogue at the European level, to clarify the objectives to be reached and identify the means which will have to be found if they are to be attained.

### Six priority topics

The six topics which have been identified and accepted in the first instance are:

- the car of tomorrow;
- multimedia educational software;
- the new generation of aircraft;
- vaccines and viral diseases;
- the train of the future; and
- intermodal transport.

It is a question of choosing subjects likely to ensure the widespread diffusion of research in all EU countries. The transparency of the selection criteria is obviously provided for and will be respected. Lastly, such an approach is free of any intention to impose, or even favour, arbitrarily, one or other technological solution.

The aim of this activity is a very precise one. It is both to identify the research which is being conducted in Europe in those areas which are closest to the needs of society and the daily concerns of Europeans, and to bring about the convergence of such research. I will give just two examples of this. In the important area of education, no country can afford to deprive itself of training software adapted to its specific needs. As for the clean car, it is clear to everyone that the problems arising from the pollution caused by cars affect urban populations everywhere.

The six task forces will collaborate closely with the scientific world as well as with industrial circles, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which must be associated with European research policies.

The cooperation and coordination of research policies are assets for a European economy confronted with American and Asian competition. I see in this one of the ways of better arming our enterprises, so as to make them stronger and more competitive and, by the same token, place them in a situation in which they can create more jobs than they do at the present time.

### ■ Excessive deficits: 10 – 1 + 3

Only three of the 15 European Union countries now meet the Maastricht economic convergence criteria regarding public deficits, according to the official interpretation of these criteria. They are Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg. On 19 June the EU Council removed Germany from the list of countries running excessive deficits, given that in 1994 its budget deficit fell to 2.5% of GDP, which is below the 3% stipulated in the Treaty on European Union. The Council stood by its favourable decision of last year as regards Luxembourg, which meets all the convergence criteria to the letter, and Ireland: its public debt is falling rapidly, even though it remains in excess of the 60% figure set out in the Treaty. At the same time the Council put the three new Member States — Austria, Finland and Sweden — in the category of countries with excessive deficits — a category which now includes all 12 EU countries, as compared with 10 last year, in the 12-nation EU. A country which meets the convergence criteria is deemed ready to move to a single currency.

### ■ Light on obstacles to trade

Each of the 15 European Union countries will have to notify the European Commission, as from 1 January 1997, of all the measures taken by it to prevent the sale of products made and legally available in another EU country. The EU Council of Ministers agreed on 6 June to establish a simple procedure aimed at clearly identifying these national measures, which many companies regard as the main obstacle to trade within the EU itself. These measures, in principle exceptions justified on the grounds that they are needed to protect public health or the environment, are to be found in sectors as yet uncovered by European harmonization 'laws'. The implementation of the new procedure should result in some tens of cases being examined each year, according to the Commission.

### ■ Closer supervision of financial system

The European Union Council of Ministers adopted definitively on 19 June a directive designed to strengthen the supervision of the entire financial system, showing that the lesson of the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has been learnt. The new 'law' will come into force in mid-1996, and will apply to banks and other credit institutions and to investment, insurance companies and unit trusts. It stipulates that the financial enterprises in question must have their registered office and management in the same EU country. If they are part of a group, the national supervisory body must know the group's structure. This body can exchange confidential information with a wide range of other bodies. Finally, the auditors must notify the competent authorities of any irregularities of which they have knowledge. The directive guarantees that this will not be regarded as a breach of confidentiality on their part and will not bring their responsibility into play.

### ■ Checks on pirated goods

Customs officers throughout the 15-nation European Union have much more freedom of manoeuvre since 1 July to intercept pirated goods. That is the date on which two European regu-

lations came into force. The first was adopted by the EU Council of Ministers last year, and it bans not only the introduction onto the European market of counterfeit and pirated goods, but also their export and re-export. The second regulation was adopted by the European Commission on 20 June, and it contains the provisions for implementing the ban, and, in particular, the procedures to be followed. All in all, the scope of activity of the customs authorities has been widened. They are now empowered to take action to protect not only trade marks but also copyright or related rights — those of film and record producers, for example — and design rights.

### ■ Preventing industrial pollution

The EU Council of Ministers adopted on 22 June a directive aimed at ensuring that the best techniques are used to reduce and prevent certain forms of industrial and agricultural pollution. The directive, which has yet to come before the European Parliament, covers the energy, metals, chemicals, paper and mineral sectors. It also deals with waste management, the dyeing of yarns and fabrics, and tanning, on the one hand, and some food industries as well as slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of pigs and poultry on the other. Three years after the directive has been definitively adopted, all new installations in these sectors will have to demonstrate they are environmentally friendly before they can be authorized to begin operations. However, the present system for obtaining the necessary authorizations will be simplified, in that the procedure will be the same whatever the type of pollution. Existing installations will be allowed eight years in which to meet the new requirements.

### ■ Progress on trans-European networks

The trans-European energy and transport networks are moving steadily forward. The EU Council of Ministers adopted on 1 June an indicative list of projects of common interest, covering both the electricity and gas networks. The aim is to interconnect national networks, complete the servicing of disadvantaged regions and facilitate gas storage. The Council adopted at the same time the guidelines for ensuring the compatibility of national networks, on the one hand, and cooperation between Member States and national energy companies on the other. As regards transport networks, the Council adopted on 19 June guidelines which also provide for interconnection and compatibility, and for the integration of land, maritime and air transport. As regards high-speed trains, the Council was able to agree on a directive which envisages a border-free European area for both the lines and the trains themselves. The European Parliament must examine all these texts before they can be definitively adopted.

### ■ Penalties for fraud

Very soon those who defraud the European Union by misappropriating Community aid, or who deprive the EU budget of part of its resources, will be penalized systematically and in the same way in all 15 EU countries. The EU Council of Ministers agreed in principle on 19 June on a regulation which provides for administrative penalties, such as fines. The regulation contains agreed definitions of the various kinds of fraud and covers all Community policies, and, in particular, those dealing with agriculture, fisheries, regional and social aid and assistance to non-EU countries. A number of national parliaments are expected to look at the draft regulation before it is definitively adopted. Meanwhile, the EU Council adopted on 26 June a regulation introducing a black list of agricultural traders who are not altogether reliable. The aim is to avoid certain types of fraud by preventing subsequent offences.

## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Elected by universal suffrage since 1979, the European Parliament now comprises 626 members: Germany 99, France, Italy and the United Kingdom 87 each, Spain 64, the Netherlands 31, Belgium, Greece and Portugal 25 each, Sweden 22, Austria 21, Denmark and Finland 16 each, Ireland 15 and Luxembourg 6. Parliament has its seat in Strasbourg, where plenary meetings are held for one week each month. Some part-sessions and committee meetings are held in Brussels to facilitate contacts with the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. Its Secretariat is based in Luxembourg.

The European Parliament is composed of political groups organized at Union level. Representing 370 million people, Parliament's main role is as a political driving force, generating various initiatives for the development of Community policies. It is also a supervisory body with the power to approve the appointment of the European Commission and to dismiss it by a two-thirds majority. Parliament votes on the Commission's programme and monitors day-to-day management of European policies, especially by putting oral and written questions to the Commission and the Council. More than 3 900 written questions were tabled in 1994. Parliament can set up committees of inquiry and it also examines petitions addressed to it by Union citizens. The Union Treaty empowers it to appoint an ombudsman to deal with complaints concerning instances of maladministration in the activities of the Union institutions or bodies.

Together, Parliament and the Council of the Union form the budgetary authority, with Parliament voting on the adoption of the annual

budget (about ECU 80 billion<sup>1</sup> in 1995) and overseeing its implementation. Thus it reflects the policy priorities it has given the Union.

Union legislation is formulated by a three-way process: the Commission proposes, while Parliament and the Council share the legislative power.

The 1986 Single European Act increased Parliament's powers with regard to legislation by introducing a cooperation procedure which called for two readings of legislative proposals by Parliament and the Council with the active participation of the Commission. The Union Treaty takes a further step towards conferment of the greater legislative powers on Parliament. It introduces a new codecision procedure in a number of important areas which gives Parliament the power to adopt regulations and directives on an equal footing together with the Council.

This procedure applies to the single market, social policy, economic and social cohesion, research and the new areas covered by the Union Treaty — trans-European networks, consumer protection, education, culture and health. Parliament would like to see the codecision procedure enlarged to include, in particular, agricultural prices and the definition of the Union's own budgetary resources.

Finally, for certain decisions of major importance (international agreements, accession of new members, uniform procedure for elections to Parliament, right of residence of Union citizens, etc.), the Council must obtain Parliament's assent.

<sup>1</sup> ECU 1 = about UKL 0.84, IRL 0.82 or USD 1.34 at exchange rates current on 1.7.1995.





## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: 626 members

Parliament is presided over by a President assisted by 14 Vice-Presidents.

Party of European Socialists

European People's Party

Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Party

European United Left  
Nordic Green Left

Forza Europa

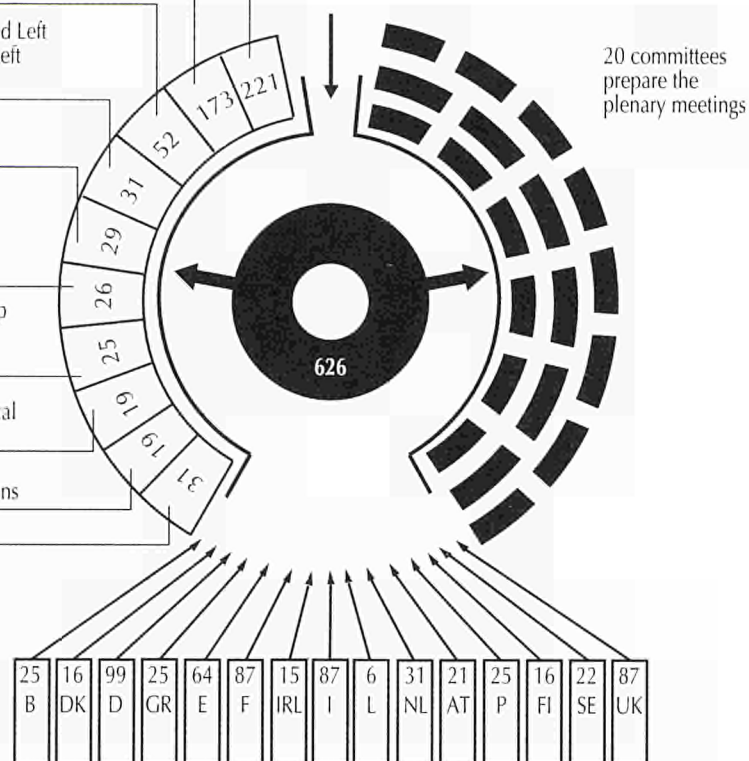
European  
Democratic  
Alliance

EP Green Group

European Radical  
Alliance

Europe of Nations

Non-affiliated



## Composition of the European Parliament (situation on 20 April 1995)

1	Party of European Socialists	221 members
2	European People's Party	173 members
3	Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Party	52 members
4	European United Left Nordic Green Left	31 members
5	Forza Europa	29 members
6	European Democratic Alliance	26 members
7	EP Green Group	25 members
8	European Radical Alliance	19 members
9	Europe of Nations	19 members
10	Non-affiliated	31 members

1. Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy
2. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Committee on Budgets
4. Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy
5. Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy
6. Committee on External Economic Relations
7. Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights
8. Committee on Social Affairs and Employment
9. Committee on Regional Policy
10. Committee on Transport and Tourism

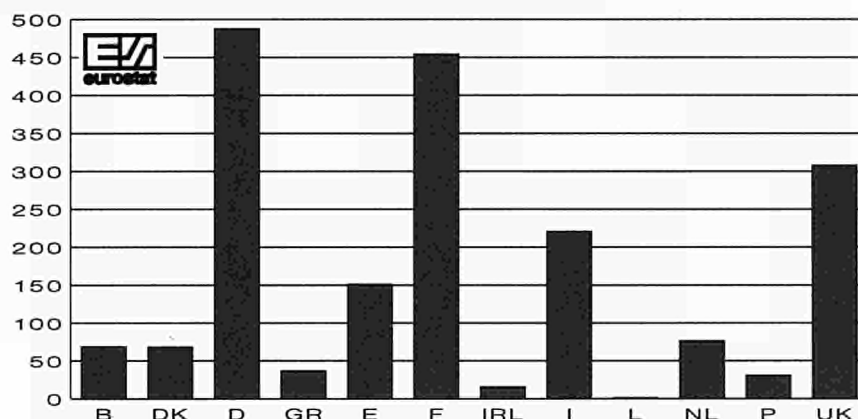
11. Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
12. Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media
13. Committee on Development and Cooperation
14. Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs
15. Committee on Budgetary Control
16. Committee on Institutional Affairs
17. Committee on Fisheries
18. Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities
19. Committee on Women's Rights
20. Committee on Petitions

## Electricity production in the European Union

The European Union's (EUR 12) electricity production in 1994 showed an increase of 1.6% on 1993.

In 1994, the European Union (EUR 12) generated 1887.5 TWh of electricity. Denmark recorded the greatest year-on-year increase in its production, at 18.8%. The other Member States showed more modest increases, but Germany remained the number-one producer in 1994.

Total net electricity production in 1994 (TWh)



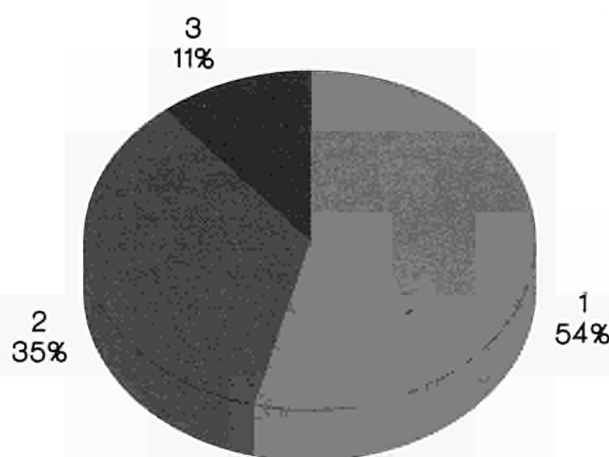
Total net electricity production (TWh)

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
1992	1855.5	68.3	28.8	498.4	34.4	150.8	442.1	14.8	214.4	1.2	74.5	28.7	299.1
1993	1857.1	67.1	32.0	487.7	35.2	149.2	450.0	15.4	211.4	1.0	74.0	30.4	303.7
1994	1887.5	68.5	68.0	487.5	36.6	151.0	454.0	15.8	220.4	1.1	76.2	30.5	307.9

Traditional thermal electrical energy accounted for most of the total electricity production of EUR 12 in 1994 (54.1%).

In 1994, nuclear power decreased by 2.1% on 1993, but still accounted for 34.9% of total production. Hydro-power increased by 14.1% in the Member States as a whole, but represents only 11% of total production.

The structure of electricity production in 1994 (EUR 12)



1 = traditional thermal electrical energy 2 = nuclear power  
3 = hydro-power and others

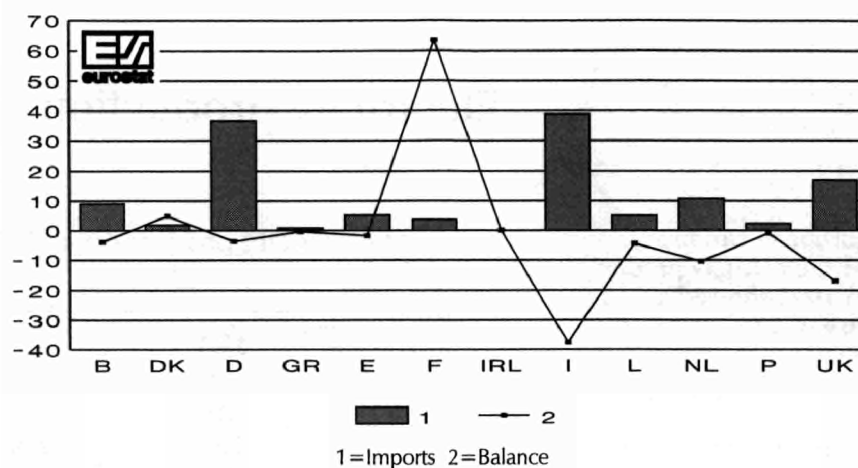
The structure of electricity production in 1994 (TWh)

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
1	1021.5	29.1	36.9	322.4	33.7	69.9	32.2	14.7	170.0	0.5	72.2	19.9	220.0
2	658.9	38.2	0.0	143.0	0.0	52.8	341.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	79.4
3	207.1	1.2	1.1	22.1	2.9	28.3	80	1.1	50.4	0.6	0.3	10.6	8.5

## EUR 12 imported 131 TWh of electricity in 1994

The EUR 12 trade deficit of -12 TWh represented 0.6% of production in 1994. Italy and Germany were the largest importers in 1994, importing 39 TWh and 36.7 TWh respectively. Italy and the United Kingdom had the greatest deficits (37.6 TWh and 16.9 TWh), respectively.

## Imports and the balance of trade in 1994 (TWh)



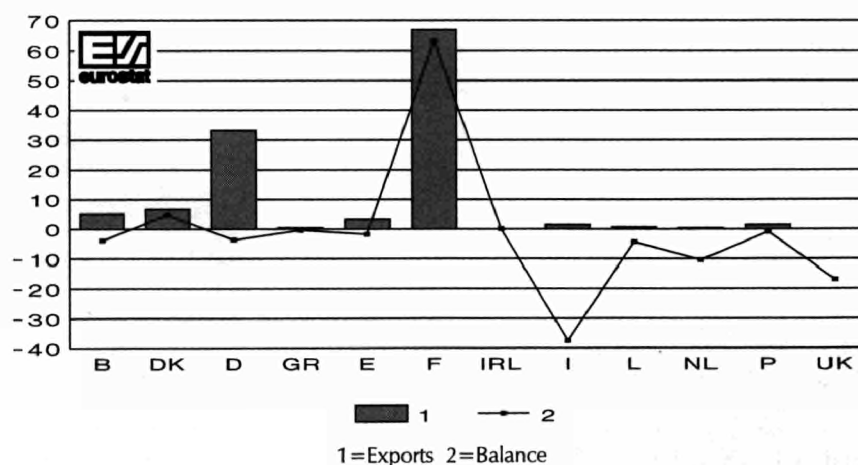
### Total electricity imports (TWh)

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
1992	121.5	5.8	8.7	28.4	1.0	4.4	4.7	0.0	35.9	4.5	8.9	2.5	16.7
1993	130.8	7.6	6.3	33.6	1.1	4.6	3.7	0.0	40.1	4.4	10.6	2.1	16.7
1994	131.0	9.0	1.8	36.7	0.8	5.1	3.6	0.0	39.0	5.0	10.8	2.3	16.9

## EUR 12 exported 119.1 TWh in 1994

At Member-State level, Denmark brought about a significant change when increased production in 1994 produced a trade surplus of 4.8 TWh. France can still boast the highest electricity surplus, of 63.4 TWh.

## Exports and the balance of trade in 1994 (TWh)



### Total electricity exports (TWh)

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
1992	109.4	5.7	4.9	33.7	0.4	3.7	58.5	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.0
1993	115.3	5.4	5.1	32.8	0.3	3.3	65.1	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.9	0.0
1994	119.1	5.1	6.6	33.0	0.4	3.3	67.0	0.0	1.4	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.0

## □ BRIEFLY

**Lifts** manufactured after July 1997 will have to meet the basic safety requirements contained in a directive adopted definitively on 23 June, with the Council's agreement — following that of the European Parliament. The directive eliminates the obstacles to the free movement of lifts and their components within the European single market.

The **exclusive distribution system for cars** will continue to operate, but on stricter terms for manufacturers and on more favourable ones for consumers, dealers, repair shops and manufacturers of spare parts. Dealers will thus be able to offer different makes of cars, although from different showrooms. The European Commission adopted on 21 June a new regulation, setting out the conditions for acceptance of the system. It will come into force this October, for a period of seven years.

**Creators of databases** will soon be able to count on their investment being protected for a 15-year period, throughout the 15-nation EU, regardless of whether their databases are computerized or not. The EU Council of Ministers agreed on a directive on 6 June which both legally protects databases and harmonizes national copyright measures. The directive now goes to the European Parliament.

**Earth-moving equipment** will have to meet maximum noise levels 4 decibels (dB) below existing levels, as from 30 December 1997. Noise levels will have to be reduced by a further 3 decibels on 30 December 2002. These provisions are contained in a directive adopted on 19 June, after having received the green light from both the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

Checks on **vessels which call at European Union ports, or transit through waters belonging to the Member States**, will become more effective, thanks to a directive adopted by the EU Council of Ministers on 19 June. The directive requires all such vessels to meet international standards as regards safety, the prevention of pollution and living and working conditions. The directive also establishes agreed criteria for the selection of the vessels to be checked.

With a view to **completing the internal market in the railway sector**, the EU Council of Ministers adopted two directives on 19 June. The first of them sets up a framework for the sharing-out of infrastructure capacity and the collection of fees for its use; the second provides for a licence which would authorize railway companies to ask for access to the infrastructure.

The EU Council of Ministers reached agreement on 13 June on a directive aimed at **harmonizing the conditions of access to and use of telephone networks and services** by companies other than the traditional ones. The aim, in particular, is to improve access to public telephone networks by companies offering telecommunications services. The directive now goes to the European Parliament.

## INITIATIVES

### ● A European employment strategy

In order to enable 140 000 to 400 000 jobs to be created annually in the European Union, the European Commission proposed to the Fifteen on 13 June a European strategy to encourage local initiatives. The aim is to remove the obstacles which prevent society's requirements and new needs from being translated into new jobs. With this in mind, the Commission has highlighted 17 areas with a potential for job creation. They include the new information technologies, neighbourhood shops, local public transport, tourism, local cultural development, waste management and pollution control. In practice, the Commission is asking the Fifteen to encourage local employment initiatives. It is proposing better coordination between national and European initiatives, as well as greater publicity for both the contents and results of successful local initiatives. The Commission would also like to increase European financial support for innovations in this field.

### ● From the single market to an open area

'A good deal remains to be done to turn the single market into a genuine open area', the European Commissioner responsible for the internal market, Mario Monti, declared on 15 June, when he presented the second annual report on the European single market. Among last year's shortcomings, as noted in the report, were the delays in transposing 'European laws' and the differences in interpretation, as from one EU country to another, continuing obstacles to trade and the difficulty of recourse action.

## A SINGLE CURRENCY: THE COMMISSION SUGGESTS A SCENARIO

The European Commission has suggested a scenario in three stages for the transition to a single currency, which is provided for in the Maastricht Treaty. Under this scenario, which is set out in a Green Paper published on 31 May, the move could be completed in the year 2001, if a majority of EU countries were ready for the single currency in 1996. Were the European Council to undertake to launch the single currency at the end of 1997, with the participation of the countries that met the economic criteria contained in the Maastricht Treaty, economic and monetary union would be up and running on 1 January 1999. On that date, after preparations lasting just a little more than a year, the conversion rates between the currencies of the participating countries would be fixed once and for all. The ecu would become a currency in its own right, and would be used by banks and large companies in their dealings with each other. Then, during a period of three years at most, the use of the ecu would be developed until the third stage, in 2002, when notes and coins denominated in ecu would be introduced. They would become the single currency in the countries in question. The Green Paper also contains a complete list of the problems to be solved, as well as elements of a solution. It also defines a communication strategy aimed at convincing public opinion of the advantages of a single currency. The European Council, which met in Cannes on 26 and 27 June, entrusted the Finance Ministers with the task of drawing up a 'reference scenario' in consultation with the European Commission and the European Monetary Institute, in time for the meeting to be held in Madrid at the end of this year. The European Council restated 'its firm resolve to prepare the transition to the single currency by 1 January 1999 at the latest'.

## ○ BRIEFLY

The European Commission presented on 21 June a draft directive for the **development of mobile communications**, starting with the telephone. The aim is to open up the sector to competition by liberalizing the infrastructure and allowing interconnections between independent companies in the different countries.

The European Commission and representatives of six countries associated with the EU — **Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia** — adopted on 21 June a common action programme to foster competition. The competent authorities in these countries will exchange information with the Commission which, for its part, will improve the training of East European specialists in this field.

Some 150 000 wide-screen television sets, using the 16:9 format, were sold last year, as compared with just 15 000 in 1992. This was one of the results of the first year of the **action plan for the introduction of advanced television services**, according to the European Commission's first annual report on it. The report was adopted on 20 June.

The European Commission proposed SAVE II on 31 May. This programme to **increase energy efficiency in the European Union** would follow on from SAVE I, which ends this December. SAVE II would continue to promote standardization and the spread of information on the rational use of energy.

## SEEN FROM ABROAD

### ► Ten countries in search of telematics

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which are either associated with the European Union already or likely to do so shortly, want to join the information society which is being set up in the 15-nation EU. This is the message which their ministers, senior officials and telecommunications authorities delivered to the European Commission and to Western businessmen when they took part on 23 June in a forum on the information society. The forum, organized by the Commission, brought together 10 Central and East European countries — Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Four working groups were set up in order to help these countries adapt to four specific areas: a regulatory framework, standardization, research and infrastructure and finance.



## ◆ Growth, the environment and SMEs

It is very difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to borrow funds at a reasonable cost. They cannot always provide the necessary guarantees, sureties and securities. What is more, they seldom take environmental considerations into account when drawing up their strategy. Faced with this state of affairs, the European Commission adopted its 'growth and environment' initiative at the end of June. This pilot project is designed to help small businesses — preferably those employing fewer than 50 workers — to invest in measures to safeguard the environment — through energy conservation, for example. The project has been set up at the request of the European Parliament, which allocated ECU 9 million to it from this year's EU budget. It will make it possible to finance the guarantees for loans granted to SMEs, in large part by the European Investment Fund. The loans are aimed at supporting initiatives which benefit the environment. The Commission will publish shortly a call for expressions of interest, in order to choose the financial establishments likely to ask for loan guarantees. After assessment, it will be in a position to select a small number of proposals, particularly taking into account the experience which these institutions have in evaluating projects for their environmental value.

## ◆ Sharing experiences in Europe

Some 300 persons, representing the 15 EU Member States, companies and professional bodies met in Paris on 19 and 20 June at a 'forum' coordinated by the European Commission. Its theme was 'Towards a better business environment: solutions for the start-up phase'. The opening session dealt with the conditions needed for the success of a policy of administrative simplification. The participants next examined the possibility of simplifying the formalities which those setting up a business have to meet, as well as of accelerating the procedures for the granting of authorizations and licences to new businesses. The forum also debated the measures taken by the Fifteen to simplify legal, fiscal and statistical formalities which businesses must meet, as well as the derogations from these formalities. The forum ended by examining the effective methods used by Member States to make it easier to employ staff. The results of this forum will appear in a report which will bring the new ideas and 'good practices' in use in the EU to the attention of all interested persons and organizations. As a follow-up to the Paris meeting, the European Commission plans to organize next year a second forum, this time on the theme 'Solutions for a business's growth phase'.

The Paris forum was, in fact, the first of a series which falls within the framework of the first 'concerted action'. These concerted actions, which are a part of the integrated Community programme in favour of SMEs, are designed to facilitate consultation and coordination among the Fifteen. The first concerted action deals with administrative simplification, while the second seeks to stimulate regional and national measures in support of businesses. The Commission intends to implement a third action, aimed at encouraging the use of the services offered to businesses.

Within the context of the second action, the Commission plans to organize forums which will make it possible to examine and compare the best practices when it comes to supporting businesses during their establishment, growth and transfer. The first forum in this particular series will be held in Madrid, at the beginning of October. Its theme will be the creation and early years of businesses.

## ◆ Europartenariat in Lisbon in November

The next Europartenariat meeting will be held in Lisbon on 24 and 25 November 1995. It will contribute to the development of a relatively less-developed region — Portugal in this case — by fostering cooperation between Portuguese SMEs and their opposite numbers elsewhere in Europe and the Mediterranean basin. A special catalogue sets out the offers of, and requests for, cooperation from 406 Portuguese SMEs. It is distributed in 54 countries through a network of specialist national consultants, with the support of such EU networks as BC-Net, the Euro-Info Centres and the European business and innovation centres. The sectoral distribution of the 406 SMEs is as follows: textiles and clothing — 19%; the service industry and trade — 15%; metallurgy — 12%; chemicals and plastics — 12%; wood — 11%; machinery and equipment — 10%; ceramics and mineral products — 6%.

The Europartenariat formula makes it possible for company managers from the host region to establish direct contacts with the heads of SMEs from other countries, thanks to prearranged meetings. Between 30 to 40% on average of the firms located in each host region enter into cooperation agreements during these Europartenariat meetings. Seminars organized at the time of the forthcoming Europartenariat will enable visitors to obtain without delay information on the economic, social and fiscal situation in Portugal, on the one hand, and on the aid available to them on the other.

Next year Europartenariat will be in northern Scandinavia, in Luleå, Sweden. The dates are 13 and 14 June.

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